

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Old Perry County Courthouse

and/or common Room Schoolhouse

**2. Location**

street & number In the Center of the Town Square \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Rome \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 8

state Indiana \_\_\_\_\_ code 018 \_\_\_\_\_ county Perry \_\_\_\_\_ code 123

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Community Center

**4. Owner of Property**

name Perry Central Community School Corporation

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Leopold \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Indiana 47551

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Perry County Courthouse

street & number Corner of Seventh & Taylor

city, town Cannelton \_\_\_\_\_ state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes ☒ no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The former Perry County Courthouse is the only structure located on the Town Square of Rome, Indiana. The building still appears very much as it did in early photographs. It is a simple two-story brick square, with a central cupola. There are three bays on each side, both on the first and second stories. The exception is on the west wall, where there are only two openings on the first story.

The foundation was originally a low course of sandstone, but in 1917 it was plastered up to the level of the first floor window sills. The main entrance is on the east side, and has a pair of narrow wood doors, unglazed, and a blind transom. The windows and door on this side have flat arches, although other elevations have segmentally arched openings on the ground floor. The standing-seam metal roof is hipped, and is surmounted by a cupola with wood siding. The shingled roof on the cupola, originally white oak, was replaced with redwood in 1967. The cupola originally had windows, and these were replaced by louvered panels many years ago. Two chimneys located on the east side were taken down in 1960.

It is not known what the original interior was like. Presently there are two rooms and toilets on the first floor, with a stairway up and another down at the west end, and a 1930s fire escape on the west exterior. Two rooms and a hall are on the second floor. The building also has a full basement.

Changes, besides the plastering of the foundation, include the alteration of first floor windows, which were originally shorter with twelve-over-twelve sash. The entrance was round-arched and located on the south side. This was apparently changed in the 1930s. Steam heat was also added at this time.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1818 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The former Perry County Courthouse is significant for its association with the founding of the town of Rome, and as the seat of County government for forty years. The building, prominently sited in the Town Square with a view of the Ohio River, also served as the town's school for many years.

The county seat was originally located downriver at Troy, until 1818 when Spencer County was created. The Perry County seat was then re-located to a more central location, on land donated by Uriah Cummings and laid out in 1818 to include a public square for the purpose of erecting a courthouse. This building was constructed that same year.

The building served as the seat of county government until 1859, when the county seat was moved to Cannelton. The former courthouse opened in 1860 as the Rome Academy, offering "advanced learning" in higher mathematics, chemistry, composition, mental philosophy, and classical languages. The building was later leased to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, at Cannelton, who changed the name of the school to St. Alban's Academy. In 1902 the Tobin Township Schools took over the building as a public school. The building was a public school until 1966, when the new Perry Central School was built.

The building is presently leased to the Rome Community Center, Inc., for the purpose of restoring and preserving the building for use as a community center.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Perry County: A History. Thos. James De La Hunt, W. K. Stewart Co., 1916.

History of Warrick, Spencer and Perry Counties.

Goodspeed Bros. & Co., 1885.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.32 Acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References Rome, Ind-Ky.

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5	4	1	8	6	0
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4	1	9	7	2	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Town Square of Rome, bounded by Mulberry Street on the north, Main Street on the east, Chestnut Street on the south, and Market Street on the west. The block measures 240 feet on each side.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 1-1. Form Prepared By

name/title James J. Groves President

organization Perry County Historical Society

date March 1, 1977

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

telephone 812/836-2535

city or town Rome

state Indiana

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature John T. Lott

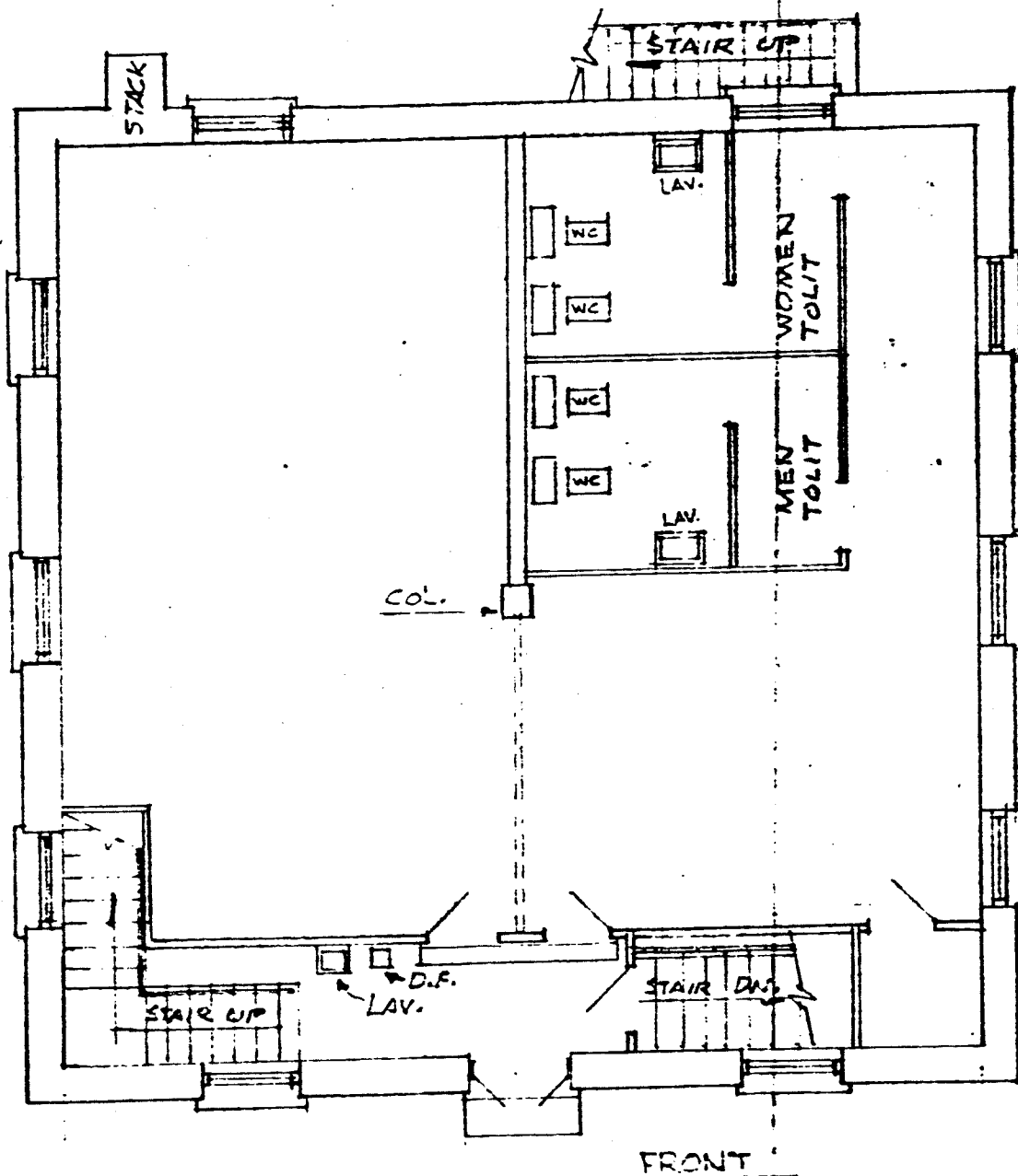
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-3-81



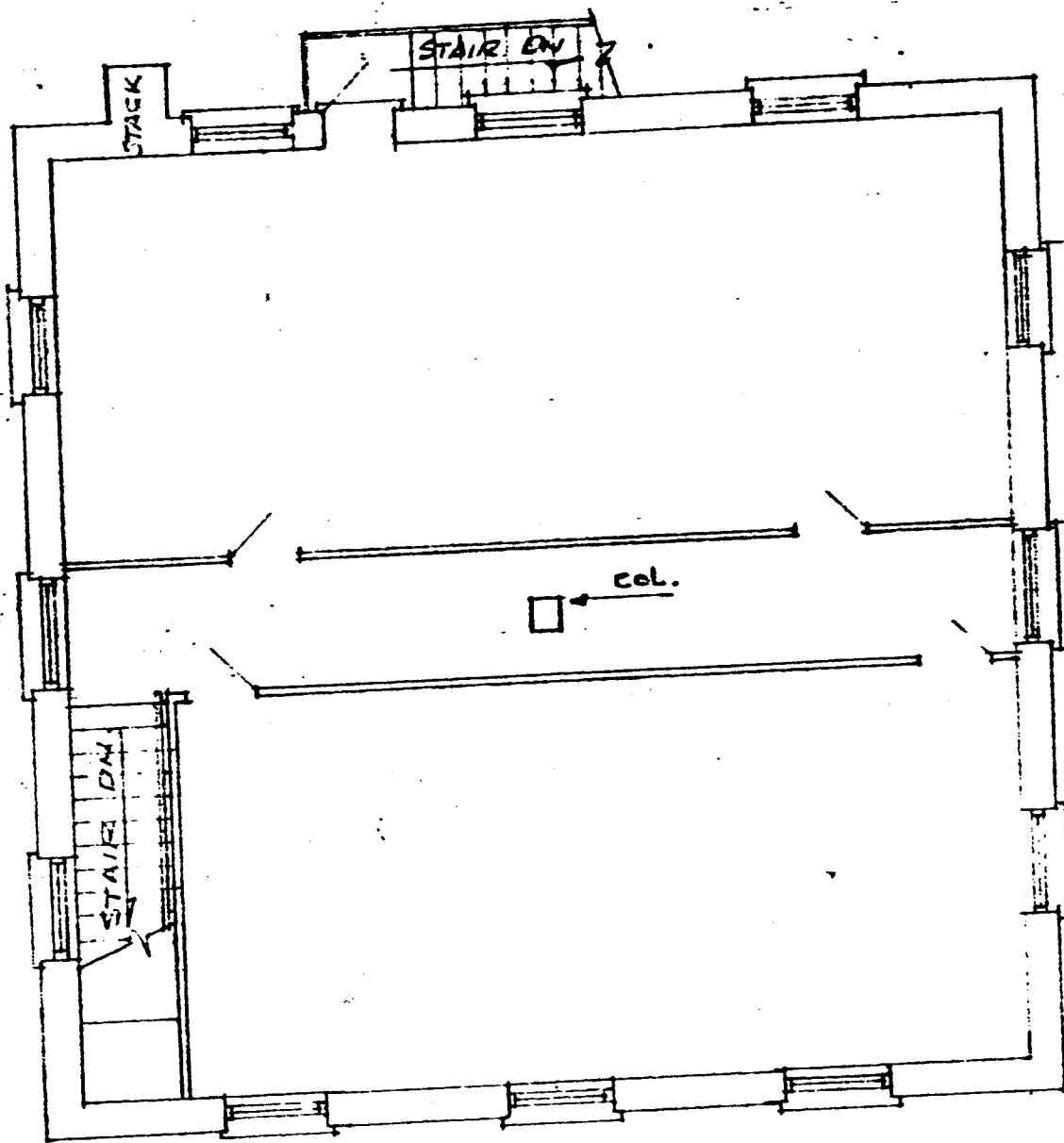






FIRST FLOOR  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

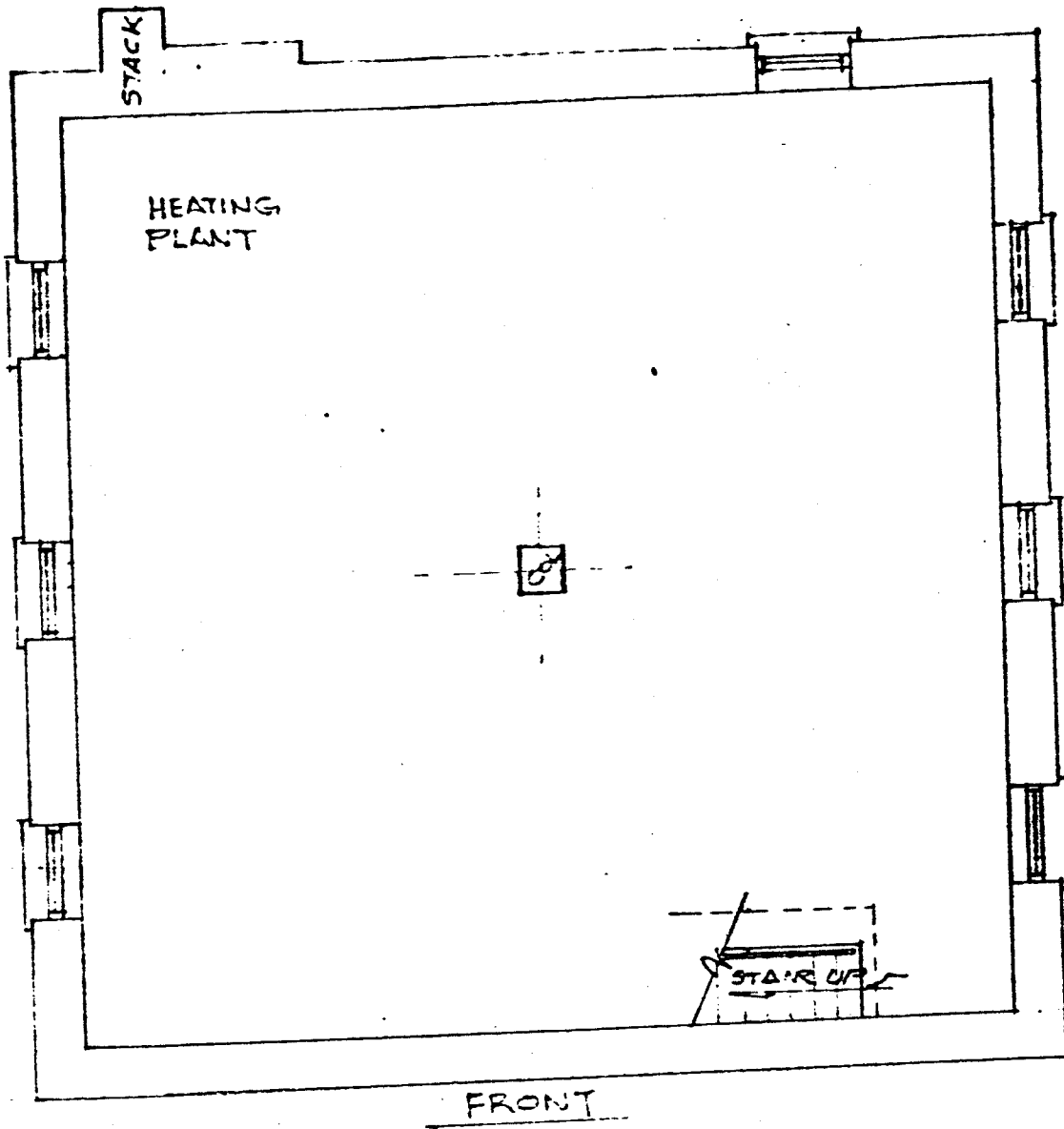




FRONT

SECOND FLOOR

SCALE  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$



BASEMENT PLAN  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

STAIRS UP

KK

# Annual Circular of Rome Academy,

ROME, PERRY COUNTY, INDIANA.

## PRINCIPAL

Rev. W. S. Hooper.

## ASSISTANT.

Miss S. E. Hooper.

## TEACHER OF MUSIC.

Miss Mary Baldwin.



## BOARD TRUSTEES.

Hon. John C. Shoemaker,  
W. V. Reynolds, Esq.  
Jno. T. Connor, Esq.  
W. S. Lamb, Esq.  
Hiram Carr, Esq.  
Hon. Ballard Smith,  
" Job Hatfield,  
Jesse C. Esarey, Esq.  
H. W. Simons, Esq.

## Friends and Patrons:

*Deeming it of more benefit than a Catalogue, we present to you a Circular, and ask a careful perusal.*

This Institution has been favored (during the past two years) with unexpected prosperity, and has won an enviable reputation in the surrounding country, and bids fair to become one of the best institutions in Southern Indiana. It has been regularly incorporated by the State Legislature; and is designed to furnish both males and females with all the advantages afforded by Western Colleges.

**RELIGION.**—No sectarian principles are allowed, yet the doctrines of the gospel are recognized, and daily worship is held at the opening of the school.

**LOCATION.**—The location is on a high bluff, commanding a beautiful view of the Ohio River and of the surrounding country. The town of Rome is a pleasant and very healthy place, with good society, and free from the noise, bustle and enticements of the city.

**BUILDINGS.**—Are large, commodious, and comfortably furnished, for the convenience of the teacher and student.

**DISCIPLINE.**—Great care is taken to promote the moral and intellectual culture of the pupil, and to encourage the physical as well as mental training, and to perfect habits of thought and study.

## TERMS OF STUDY AND VACATION.

The Academical year is divided into three terms of thirteen weeks each; commencing respectively, First Monday of September, First Monday of December, and Third Monday of March, with a vacation during Christmas Holidays, and one between the last two sessions.

**EXAMINATIONS, &c.**—Students are required to have at least four studies, and to be subject to an examination at the end of each term. Careful records of proficiency are kept, and presented to the parents and guardians.

**DIPLOMAS.**—Will be granted to those who complete the course of study, and certificates to those who complete the course of any one year.

**ORNAMENTAL BRANCHES, &c.**—In addition to the regular course, the Ornamental Branches, Music, Needle-work, and Book-keeping will be taught to those desiring them.

## THE COURSE OF STUDY

Embraces the most thorough systems of Mathematics, Geography, Grammar, Rhetoric, Philosophy, Languages, Astronomy, and kindred branches taught in the Collegiate and Academical Departments of other institutions.

CITIZENS of this and the adjoining counties should look well to the interests of the PEOPLE'S ACADEMY, and lend their influence and support to it, and endeavor to build up an institution that may shed its lustre upon them, and upon which they can look with pride. Send on your sons and daughters.

## EXPENSES.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT, - - -	\$4 00	per term.
1st ACADEMICAL DEPARTMENT, -	5 50	"
2d " " " " " " " "	7 00	"
1st COLLEGIATE YEAR, - - -	8 00	"
2d " " " " " " " "	12 00	"
3d " " " " " " " "	12 00	"

MUSIC, Piano, - - - - -	\$12 00.
" Piano rent, - - - - -	3 00.
NEEDLE-WORK, - - - - -	4 00.
ORNAMENTAL BRANCHES, - - -	2 00 to 6 00.
BOOK KEEPING, - - - - -	10 00.
BOARD, (Private Families) - -	1 75 to 2 25.

Attendance—First Year, 115. Second Year, 158.

NR. file

Mary M. Rhodes  
Perry County Auditor  
Cannelton, Indiana 47520

September 9, 1977

Mr. Joseph D. Cloud, Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
608 State Office Building  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Mr. Cloud:

The Perry County Board of Commissioners have received your letter concerning action to be taken on October 5, 1977, with regard to a National Register application for the Old Perry County Courthouse.

We, as the Board of Commissioners of Perry County, are in unanimous agreement that the Old Perry County Courthouse at Rome should be listed on the National Register of Historic sites.

We believe this old County Courthouse is indeed significant in American History, especially in the history of our county and the State of Indiana.

This structure is located on property along the Ohio River and its scenic beauty alone should be an inducement to include this building in the National Register.

Yours very truly,

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BY:

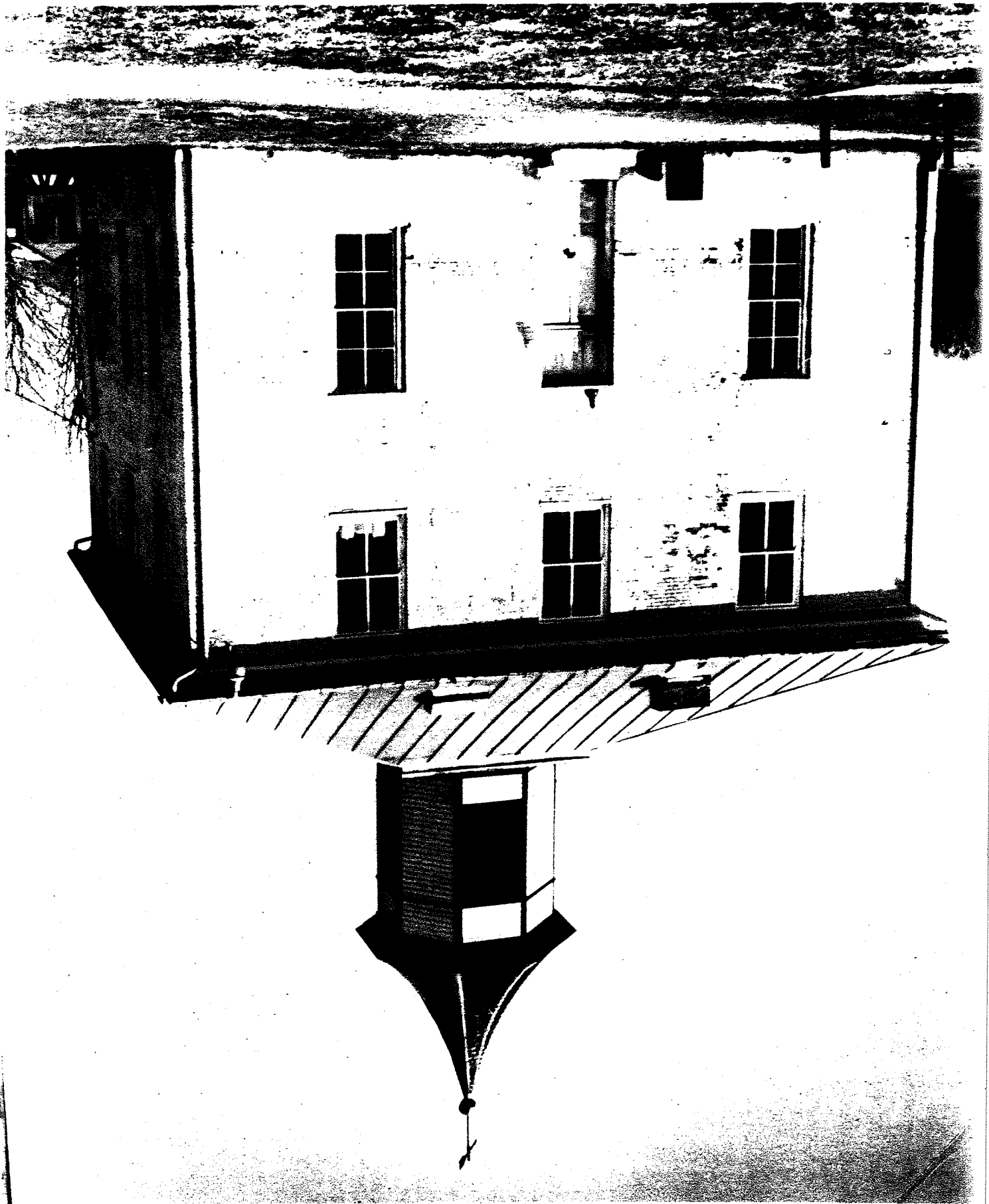
Lawrence D. Dwyer

Albert L. Fairbank



Old Perry County Courthouse  
Rome, Indiana  
Photographer and date unknown  
View from southwest, later than Photo  
#1

Photo #2 of 4



Old Perry County Courthouse  
Rome, Indiana

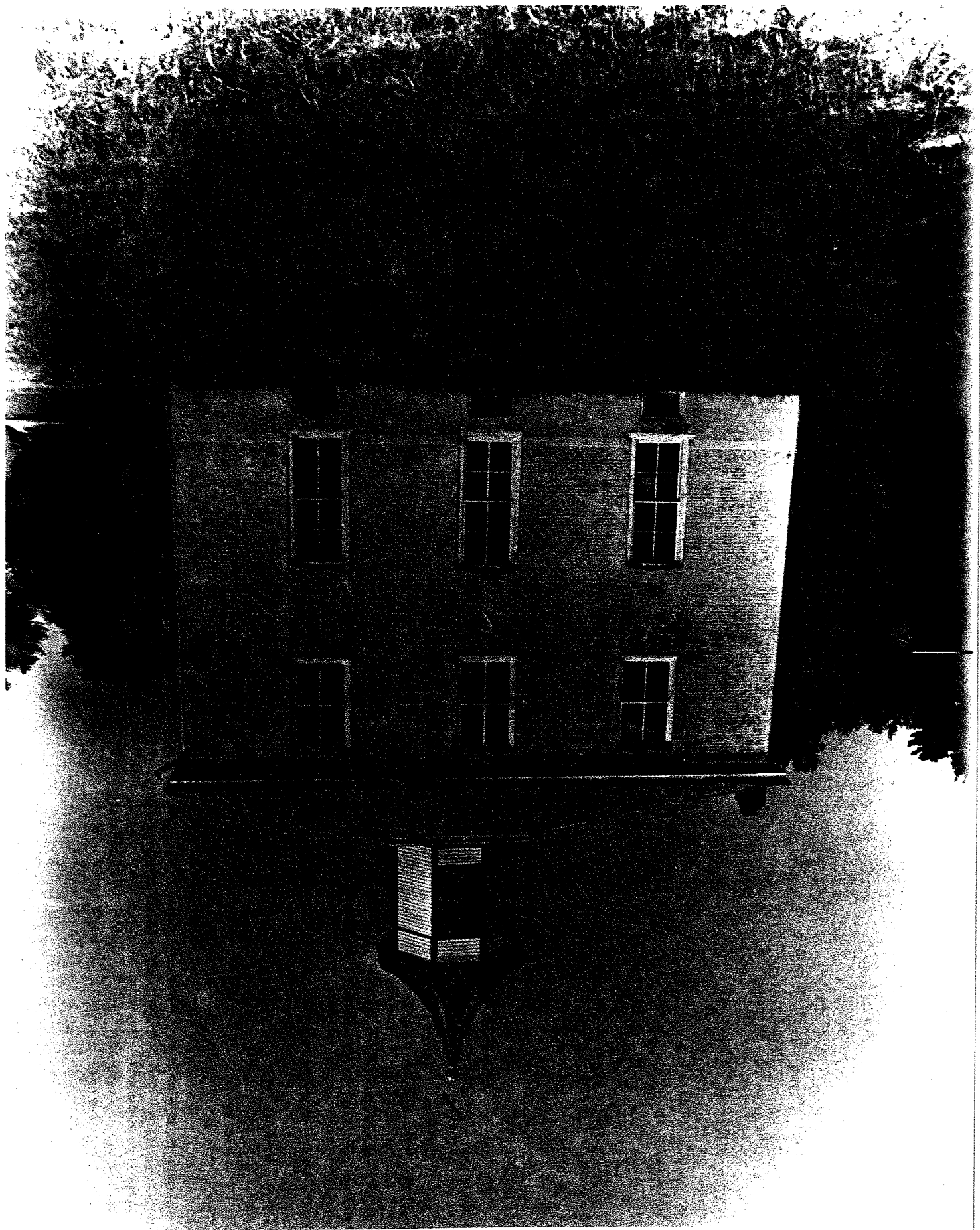
Photographer unknown

1977

View from northeast, showing present  
entrance

Photo # 3 of 4

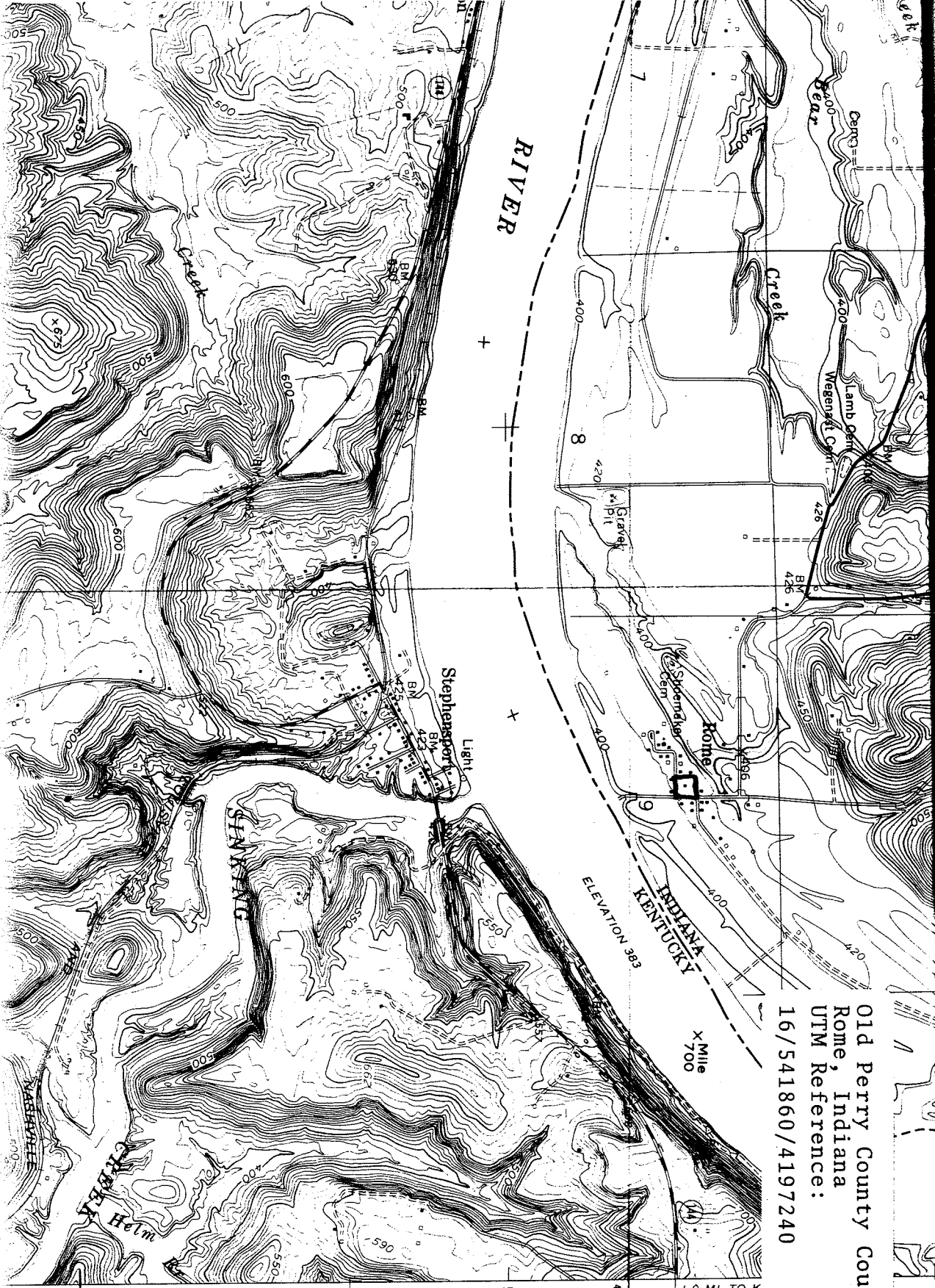




Old Perry County Courthouse  
Rome, Indiana  
Mary Busam 1978  
Negatives: James J. Groves  
Rome, Indiana  
View of north facade  
Photo # 4 of 4

Rome Courthouse

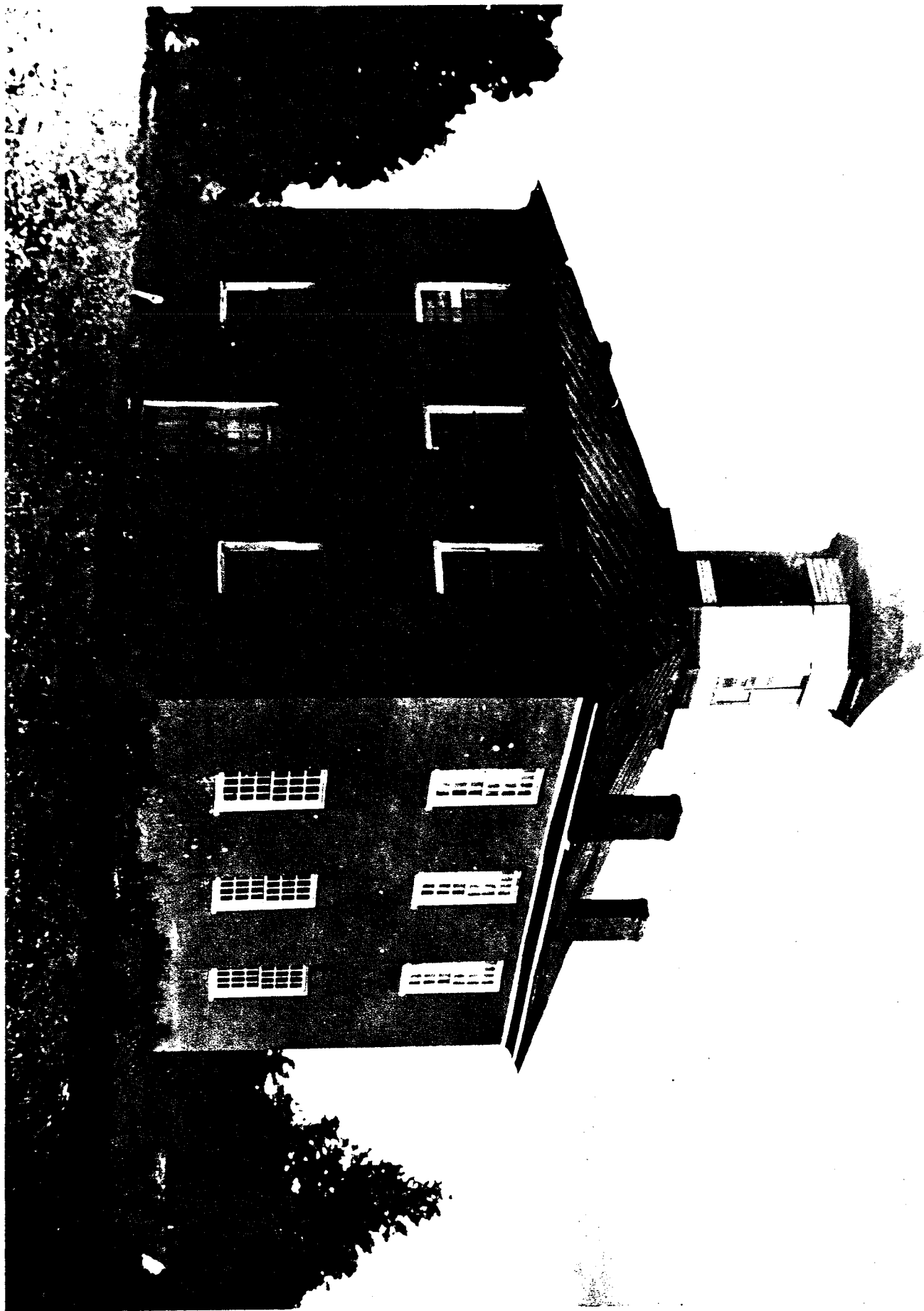
Open by Mary Busam 1978  
Negative held by Groves  
Rome Ind 47074  
M 812/836-2035



Old Perry County Courthouse  
Rome, Indiana  
UTM Reference:  
16/541860/4197240

4195 4196 4197 55' 1.9 MI. TO K





Old Perry County Courthouse  
Rome, Indiana  
Photographer and date unknown  
View from southeast, showing original  
windows  
Photo #1 of 4

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